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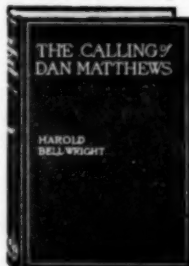
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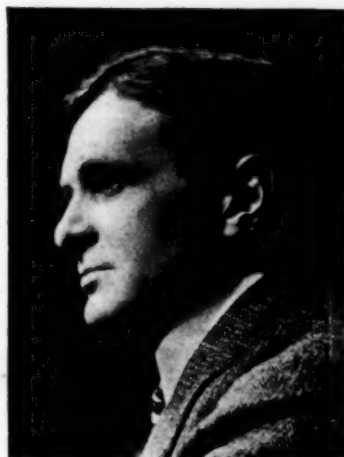
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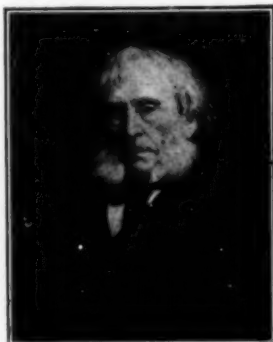
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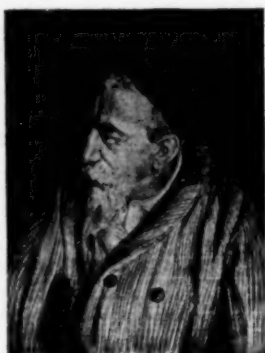
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BOOKS OF THE COMING YEAR.

Perhaps the most notable characteristic of our full classified list of publishers' announcements of new books, published elsewhere in this issue, is afforded by the great variety and interest of the biographical category. A good biography of an important person is the most satisfactory kind of a book. It may have all the interest of the best type of fiction, with the added interest that comes from our consciousness that it is the portrayal of a real rather than of an imagined life. Readers of the next few months may revel in this form of literary enjoyment, since all tastes seem to have been provided for. From Boccaccio to G. B. Shaw, from Joan of Arc to John Bigelow, the chronological gamut is run; the frivolous are remembered with gossippy memoirs, the sober with lives of statesmen and actors and men of affairs and men of letters.

One could not go far astray in searching among these forthcoming biographies for "the book of the year," and in fixing upon the "Retrospections of an Active Life," by Mr. John Bigelow. This wonderful old man, now completing his ninety-second year, with an intellect whose keenness is no whit dulled by age, has told his life-story, with reflections upon a historical period *quorum pars magna fuit*, in three volumes that cannot fail to be of absorbing interest to all American readers. It does not seem likely that any other publication of the year can have quite so strong a claim upon our attention. For a fair second, we may mention Mr. William Winter's "Life and Art of Richard Mansfield," which we trust may be far from the last work of its veteran author, now freed from the bondage of ignoble journalism. Long may he continue to praise whatever is of good report in the drama, and to castigate the stage corrupters of public morals! Among biographies of famous Englishmen we are to expect one of Stanley written by himself, of Sheridan by Mr. Walter Sichel, of Lecky by his widow, of Richard Jefferies by Mr. Edward Thomas, and of Lord Kelvin by Mr. Silvanus P. Thompson. Among Americans, there will be a Grover Cleveland by Mr. George F. Parker, a Stephen A. Douglas by Mr. Clark E. Carr, and a J. D. Whitney by Mr. Edwin T. Brewster. A life of Bach by Sir Hubert Parry, and one

of Verlaine by M. E. Lepelletier, may be given as a continental makeweight to these English and American examples.

Among works of history, the following seem to us particularly alluring: "The Birth of Modern Italy," a volume of papers by the late Jessie White Mario; "Garibaldi and the Thousand," by Mr. George M. Trevelyan; "Men and Manners of Old Florence," by Dr. Guido Biagi; "The Great French Revolution," by Prince Peter Kropotkin; "Society and Politics in Ancient Rome," by Professor Frank F. Abbott; and "The Foundations of the Nineteenth Century" (which will probably turn out to be political and social philosophy rather than history), by Mr. Houston Stewart Chamberlain, that distinguished English scholar who writes his books in German, to be afterwards translated into his own tongue.

In the field of literature, the publication of Emerson's Journals seems to be the most important single announcement. They are to be edited by Messrs. Edward W. Emerson and Waldo Emerson Forbes, and will be precious documents indeed. Volumes of essays that will find eager readers are "The American of the Future," by Professor Brander Matthews; "American Prose Masters," by Mr. William C. Brownell; "The Mystery of Education, and Other Academic Performances," by Professor Barrett Wendell; "The Spirit of America," by Mr. Henry van Dyke; "Essays on Modern Novelists," by Professor William L. Phelps; "Masters of the English Novel," by Professor Richard Burton; and collections of papers by Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson and Richard Watson Gilder. Two important works of cognate interest are Professor Gildersleeve's "Hellas and Hesperia," being lectures on the vitality of Greek studies in America, and Professor Mahaffy's "What Have the Greeks Done for Civilization?" being a Lowell lecture course of last winter.

The poet usually avoids the puff preliminary, and it is our experience every year that the most vital poetry comes almost unheralded. The announcements at hand, however, include volumes by Mr. Percy Mackaye, Dr. Henry van Dyke, Mr. Charles E. Russell, Mr. Richard Le Gallienne, Professor Richard Burton, Mr. Madison Cawein, Miss Louise Imogen Guiney, Miss Josephine Preston Peabody, and Mrs. Florence Earle Coates. We are glad to note that "Dido, Queen of Carthage," by Mr. Stephen Phillips, is promised for early publication, and that the poems of Mr. William

Winter are to be brought into a newly collected edition.

In the wilderness of promised fiction there is one cheerful resting-place provided by Mr. De Morgan's new story, characteristically entitled "It Never Can Happen Again." We are not likely to have another novel "equally as good," although we make the suggestion with a certain hesitation, being fresh from the late summer surprise of "The Old Wives' Tale," and recalling two or three other recent delightful examples of the unexpected. We may also entertain "great expectations" of such books as "Ann Veronica," by Mr. H. G. Wells; "Open Country," by Mr. Maurice Hewlett; "A Life for a Life," by Mr. Robert Herrick; "John Marvel, Assistant," by Mr. Thomas Nelson Page; and "Bella Donna," by Mr. Robert Hichens. If we may not expect greatly, we at least know about what we shall get in such stories as "The Silver Horde," by Mr. Rex Beach; "The Leopard and the Lady," by Miss Marjorie Bowen; "The Danger Mark," by Mr. Robert W. Chambers; "The Florentine Frame," by Miss Elizabeth Robins; and "The Red Saint," by Mr. Warwick Deeping. We are also to have "Stradella," a second posthumous book by Marion Crawford; and also "On the Lightship," a posthumous collection of stories by Herman Knickerbocker Vielé. There are others, to the number of several hundreds; and we shall see what we shall see.

Perhaps, after all, books of travel will occupy the foremost place in the public eye. What volumes may be brought forth by Messrs. Cook and Peary and their zealous partisans we may hardly conjecture; but of books actually in sight we note Mr. Sven Hedin's "Trans-Himalaya," and "An Antaretic Voyage" by Lieutenant Shackleton, both of which will be contributions to knowledge if not to entertainment. And the reader for pleasure combined with instruction will be likely to find his account in such books as that on Portugal by Mr. Ernest Oldmeadow, "Seven English Cities" by Mr. W. D. Howells, "Unknown Tuscany" by Mr. Edward Hutton, "The Land of the Lion" by Mr. W. S. Rainsford, and Mr. Albert Sonnichsen's "Confessions of a Macedonian Bandit." The travels of John Davis in the United States a hundred years ago are to be reprinted, offering a contrast to books of modern journeyings. And if there is anything in an author's name to attract attention to a book, readers should be found for a work on "The Servian People" by Prince Lazarovich-Hrebeliainovich.

THE BOOKS FROM QUEER STREET.

There is an indefinable something about the books from Queer Street that always betrays them. Just as the mentally unbalanced reveal their unsteadiness of equilibrium by their gait, their gestures, a turn of the head, a glance of the eye, so the writings of the eccentric, the obsessed, the more or less insane, have a tone or a style or an atmosphere that unfailingly distinguishes them from the books from Orthodox Avenue.

The favorite topics of our eccentric authors, our writers born with a screw loose somewhere in the brain's mechanism, are the famous insoluble problems of all ages, such as the squaring of the circle, the doubling of the cube, the trisecting of an angle, the invention of perpetual motion, the finding of the philosopher's stone, and so on; while also the upsetting of accepted theories, like the law of gravitation or the sphericity of the globe, is undertaken again and again with a zeal truly religious. A first cousin to the passion for humbling Newton to the dust is the frantic eagerness to strip Shakespeare of his honors. In recent years still another class of peculiar books has made its appearance — the products, or by-products, of the "new psychology," the works of writers indulging in somewhat too beatific visions of the unlimited powers and possibilities of the human mind.

To touch briefly on the last class first, its authors affect a vagueness of expression, a floridity of style, and a free use of neologisms, that rarely fail to impress and overawe the reader of unscholarly habit and inexact thinking. In a recent work that professes to be "a relation of the observations and experiences of a philosopher and poet in the spirit world," communicated by thought-vibrations to an earthly scribe, there is much said about harmonial relations with the infinite, spiritual radiations, aural surroundings, incarnate and ex-carnate souls, vicegerents of the Great Oversoul, and other like sublimities. Amid much that is excellent and suggestive in its way, a few characteristic sentences, a little baffling to the plain reader, may be quoted as rhetorical examples. "The polarization of all spiritual aspirations in consciousness precedes illumination and the unfolding of the theocracy." "Why should I not sit at the feet of wisdom, and learn from the vicegerents of the Great Oversoul, whose radiations permeate every part of an infinite universe, in whose effluences these, my desired teachers, had become partakers of that whereof I had not attained?" The writer more than once struggles unsuccessfully with the difficulties of "attain" and "obtain," and what preposition, if any, to use with each; he attains *of* and obtains *to*, which is sad to the grammarian. He also splits his infinitives with a ruthlessness that would sorely disturb the serenity of a purist, and ordinary words are shouldered out of the way to give place to terms not yet vulgarized by any maker of dictionaries. Somewhat as the ancient Greeks disguised the terrors of the furies and the horrors of the

night under propitiatory euphemisms, this writer elaborates a graceful periphrasis when referring to death. A friend of his, instead of dying as men have commonly been in the habit of doing, "passed out from his always rather delicate frame, and, after a short time in a semi-conscious condition, awoke to the reality of being."

A distinguishing mark of the class of literature to which the above-cited work belongs is its dogmatic tone, its "cocksureness," its sublime disregard of all opposing evidence or proof. "To doubt would be disloyalty, to falter would be sin," is the writer's motto. From an article on "True Occultism," published in a reputable monthly that has an honored place in "Poole's Index," we take a passage that fairly stuns one with stiffly dogmatic affirmations. "Occult philosophy teaches, first of all, that man must *be*. The doing is of secondary import. Only as he *is*, can he rightly *do*. The hidden wisdom of the Sphinx and Isis is the same. *Is-is* (Isis), *Be-Be*, 'I am that I am,' sums up the secret of all life; and when one knows this law, the powers long hidden in his being will arise and crown him king." Note the splendid audacity with which the writer cuts the etymological knot of the real meaning and derivation of the Egyptian goddess's name! The famous derivation of "King Jeremiah" from "pickled cucumber" is not more admirable.

A little dip into a well-known book by a well-known apostle of new or newest thought brings up the following: "Just behind the seen and material human organism there is a sensuous mind, the most outward and fleshly of the immaterial part, which pertains especially to the body and acts directly upon it. Next within is the intellectual zone, and still deeper, in the innermost, is the spiritual ego, the divine image." This recalls Swedenborg's confident assertion that "The human mind is distinguished into three regions: the highest, which is also the inmost, is called *celestial*, the middle *spiritual*, and the lowest *natural*," and makes us wish that we too were privileged to know and to declare, without need of evidence or argument, some of these sublime and awful truths.

A favorite illusion of the producers of eccentric literature is that all the colleges and universities and learned bodies the world over are the victims, the voluntary victims, of error, and are banded together to suppress the truth and to crush all who would be its proclaimers. A writer in the magazine already cited, moved to utterance by a sense of the wrongs of the laboring classes, and a conviction that he has discovered the remedy, thus expresses the matter: "Those who have consumed their days in prayerful learning, whose nightly tapers have waxed dim in the examination of the subtlest problems and the broadest measurements of human society, should they forsooth not be wiser than the unread weaklings of their generation? . . . Verily, verily. And yet the mob is right, and the scholars are the sciolists." The Rev. Edward Dingle, in concluding his remarkable work entitled "The Balance of Physics,

the Square of the Circle, and the Earth's True Solar and Lunar Distances," which appeared in London nearly twenty-five years ago, devoutly exclaims: "To the Lord be all thanksgiving, who has kept my intellect and the directing of its thoughts sound, while seeking to deliver his word from the exulting shouts of his enemies and the seducers of mankind!"

Immensely flattering to one's self-love is it to imagine oneself the chosen depositary of secrets, whether mathematical or physical or celestial, unrevealed to the rest of mankind; and if one is only sufficiently determined and sufficiently deaf to reason, there is no reason why there should ever be any rude awakening. But faith will falter at times, and then there comes a shrill note of anger, or a blustering attempt to mask one's fear that, after all, the other side may be in the right. These departures from the placidly self-confident tone are quite natural and excusable when the circle-squarer or the flat-earth champion has spent life and substance in unavailing efforts to convert the rest of the world. A bulky volume (whose name and authorship refuse to come forth from the mists of the past) essaying to prove the absurdity and even iniquity of the wave theory of sound, and vehemently denouncing Tyndall, Helmholtz, and other teachers of the hated doctrine, had some vogue in rural communities, and especially among the back-woods ministry, about thirty years ago. Again and again were Messrs. Tyndall, Helmholtz & Co. driven into a corner, put into a hole, held up to scathing ridicule, and shown to be the veriest bunglers and blunderers in science. Forgetting one's lessons in elementary acoustics, and accepting the author's premises and sharing his animus, one could not but find the book delightful reading; so gratifying is it to be right, in a minority of two, while all the rest of the world is wallowing in a bog of hopeless error and wilful delusion. Next to being the author of a prodigiously successful and world-famous book, what could be more glorious than to be the author of a book that is right where all other books have been wrong, and whose sales are suppressed by the united exertions of the confederated enemies of truth?

One of John Fiske's last and best contributions to magazine literature was an article on "Some Cranks and their Crotchets," in which he pointed out some of the stigmata or witch-marks of crankery as they are found in books. His experience as assistant librarian in the Harvard library had made him acquainted with many works that well illustrate the wide difference between the delicious drollery of the wise man and the earnest nonsense of the fool. We laugh with the one writer and at the other. In nothing does the crank more quickly and surely betray his obliquity of vision, when he rushes into print, than in his utter failure to see the humorous aspect of things. His is the terrible seriousness of the little child that cannot smile when it is in earnest. If one wishes to make sure that one's books shall never be classified by the library cataloguer with "insane literature" — or, as Fiske considerably

decided to style it out of regard for the feelings of those abnormal authors who are still with us and are in the habit of consulting library catalogues, "eccentric literature" — it would seem to be only necessary never to be so tremendously in earnest as to lose the power of laughing at oneself.

CASUAL COMMENT.

PRESENT-DAY TENDENCIES TO MYSTICISM are discernible in many quarters. The recent Congress of Psychology at Geneva has been considering the psychology of religion and theology, and Professor Harold Hoeffding of Copenhagen declared that the things most important for us to know are unknowable, essentially mysterious, and that the search for ultimate reality leads inevitably to mysticism. One of the most talked-of and most original of modern thinkers, the French philosopher Bergson, shows decided mystical leanings. The mysterious and the wonder-compelling are leading motives in the current drama, as may be seen in recent plays by Messrs. Barrie, Hauptmann, and Maeterlinck — in "Peter Pan," "The Sunken Bell," and "The Blue Bird." All sorts of more or less fantastic and mystical cults are in vogue, though to name them might be thought invidious. This is called a scientific and practical and calmly critical age; but the more strenuous the efforts of the scientist to lay bare naked reality, to demonstrate exactly what the ultimate particle of matter really is, the more is he baffled and perplexed and forced to take refuge in the non-material realm. To learn that the atom is, after all, probably nothing but a system of pulsations, or a mode of motion, or a centre of mysterious forces, is about as definite as the old answer to the question, What is matter? — never mind; or, What is mind? — no matter.

THE DEGRADATION OF WORDS, the gradual descent in the scale of dignity and respectability of certain adjectives and nouns and verbs and adverbs, with the constant necessity of finding or coining other terms to fill the vacancies, is a subject of more than philological interest. Is it because familiarity breeds contempt, that words are so continually losing caste? or is the unceasing change to which every living language is subject simply one illustration of the Heraclitean doctrine that all things are in a state of flux? The latest section of the Oxford English Dictionary, containing words beginning with S as far as Sauce, embraces an unexpected number of these discredited or shabby-genteel terms; and, what is worthy of note, these terms are more than likely to denote moral qualities. "Saintly" and "sanctimonious" are now, in common speech, of uncomplimentary significance. By their side are to be placed a long array of adjectives, once denoting none but laudable attributes, but now much the worse for wear. Who would like to be known as the "worthy" Mr. Smith, or as "honest" Jacob Jones, or as "innocent"

Tom Miller, or as "clever" Bob Burly? Even adjectives indicative of intellectual preëminence easily assume undesirable implications. "Sapient" and in a lesser degree "sagacious" readily lend themselves to the uses of satire. After all, our language is much like the Chinese: tone of voice or accent has to show in what one of various possible senses our words are used.

AN ENTIRELY NEW EDITION OF THE ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA is announced for next year. This eminently national work, as solid and substantial and authoritative as the Bank of England or the London "Times," is now almost a century and a half old, and its latest reissue took place twenty or more years ago, so that very naturally it fails to meet the demand for up-to-date information on such subjects as wireless telegraphy, radioactivity, aeronautics, pragmatism, psychotherapy, and various others. An encyclopædia, like a library catalogue, is no sooner issued than it is out of date, its disease of senectitude becoming more and more acute with each passing year; but though librarians have in a measure mastered the difficulty of the catalogue by adopting the ever-expansible card system, no publisher has yet undertaken to supply the world with encyclopædic learning in card-catalogue form, nor is it a form likely to commend itself to the public. Must, then, the next-to-the-last edition always be thrown away as so much useless lumber? A report, almost too good to be true, is circulating that in this instance the Britannica's publishers will take back the ninth edition in considerable part-payment for the tenth — though one might suggest that it would be better to accept the purchaser's affidavit of proprietorship in the earlier edition and save the freight thereon, which might go toward diminishing still further the reduced rate at which the new work is offered to owners of the old.

THE TRAVEL-TALE AS A FAVORITE FORM OF LITERARY HOAX furnishes food for reflection. Just at present, when the civilized world is absorbed in details of the exploration of the Northern Pole, the historic instances are being recalled of published travels and discoveries and explorations that entertained and perhaps instructed the world, but lacked the essential if prosaic element of truth. The benevolent Father Hennepin's voyage down the Mississippi to its very mouth, as recorded in the later and more elaborate edition of his Journal, was largely a stay-at-home journey. Louis de Rougemont's marvellous experience as chief of a cannibal tribe in the wilds of interior Australia was received with raptures of astonishment — until an unpoetic wife of the romancer rudely upset the airy fabric of her husband's fertile fancy. Like those foolish fishes that will even gulp down an unbaited hook, the dear public has delighted to be humbugged by the most barefaced of frauds. A Boston newspaper once printed, in jocular mood, a detailed description

of a vessel of the Swiss navy that was announced to have arrived at that port; and the article was copied by other journals in good faith and solemnly read by hundreds as a genuine news item. The love of fairy tales does not die out with the shedding of the milk-teeth.

THE ADVANTAGES OF A LAYMAN'S POINT OF VIEW, in literature, in art, and even in matters more severely technical and special, is often unquestionable. Detachment and impartiality are not easily maintained by those in the thick of the fight. Mr. Bernhard Berenson, the well-known art critic, on reading a letter by an American painter harshly criticising Titian and Tintoretto and the Venetian school in general, is reported to have expressed an emphatic opinion on the impossibility of being at the same time a great artist and a competent critic of art. The painter, said he, "gets so thoroughly in the habit of his own manner and form, his own way of seeing things, that when he looks at the work of other men all he notices is that they don't paint as he does. He is more narrow-minded in his criticism even than a layman who knows nothing about the subject." In the field of letters, Robert Buchanan's famous assault on Rossetti ("The Fleshly School of Poetry") is an instance of narrow and unjust criticism of one writer's work by another. And there are many others. No man who is himself in the arena, helping to stir up the dust, can command a clear view of his competitors.

LORD BACON AS A WRITER OF VERSE ought assuredly to have had no great difficulty in keeping his own identity from getting mixed up with that of a certain author of sundry plays and sonnets that have since acquired fame. In "The Nineteenth Century" for August Sir Edward Sullivan has a well-considered and reasonably convincing article on "Francis Bacon as a Poet," with illustrative if not highly exhilarating extracts from the erudite nobleman's "Translations of Certain Psalms into English Verse" and "Apothegms New and Old." On the whole, few readers of unbiased minds will find any difficulty in subscribing, with the author of the article, to Spedding's opinion that there are probably "not five consecutive lines in either Bacon or Shakespeare that could possibly be interchanged, and not recognized at once by any person familiar with their styles." This, from the man whose life-work was the editing and the "whitewashing" of Bacon, should carry weight.

"FLETCHERISM" APPLIED TO READING might work wonders in curing intellectual dyspepsia, building up the mental tissues, promoting the health and vigor of the brain, and increasing the patient's intellectual weight. When one contemplates the square yards of daily paper, especially of Sunday paper, that the eye and the mind travel over every morning, indiscriminately gobbling an article or a paragraph here and there, or perhaps even taking in the whole

rudis indigestaque moles, to let it gallop through the alimentary canal of the intellect without being one-thousandth part assimilated, one marvels that softening of the brain is not a hundred times more prevalent than it actually is, and one feels almost inclined to organize a boycott against all publishers (of whom newspaper publishers are the chief offenders) whose output is more remarkable for quantity than quality. For nineteen cents a day, declares one enthusiastic Fletcherite, a judicious person can buy food which, if eaten with deliberation, will more richly nourish the system than a many-course Delmoniconian bill of fare costing several dollars. A small fraction of the world's present expenditure on ephemeral reading matter — ephemeral literally and in its Greek sense — would purchase enough good, mind-nourishing, heart-sustaining literature to give every reader at least a modicum of true culture.

A FEROCIOUS VOCABULARY OF PEACEFUL SPORTS has been gradually developed by those enthusiastic attendants at baseball games whose vivid emotions at sight of a three-base hit or a neat double-play or a left-handed catch of a red-hot liner find all ordinary idioms too tame for tolerance. No wonder the foreign reader of our newspapers thinks us a most blood-thirsty people in our way of playing the great American game, when he finds that a baseball nine is calmly referred to as having devoured its opponents; a base-runner dies at second, or expires on third; another is nailed at the plate, or is thrown out in trying to steal second; and a pitcher may receive so terrible a lacing that one marvels how he can ever muster courage to play again. In a comparatively sober and sedate journal of recent date, we find the baseball section headed thus: "More Meat for Tigers—Find Yankees Toothsome Morsels for Sunday Feast." The extensive and varied terminology of the game is enough to puzzle and daunt the uninitiated, leading him to expect something far more elaborately barbarous than a Spanish bull-fight, and perhaps as terrifying as an old-fashioned execution with preliminary torture and final dismemberment. But we are now at the tail-end of the season, and the press will soon cease, for a while, from frightening the innocent with violent metaphor and sanguinary phrase in its baseball columns.

AN AMERICAN SCHOLAR'S STUDY OF STERNE (we refer to Professor Wilbur L. Cross's "Life and Times" of that author) is meeting with gratifying success in the country of Sterne's birth. Some time ago the supply of the book furnished by the Macmillans for English consumption was reported all sold out, which in the sluggish summer season is convincing proof of the book's worth as an interest-awakener. Being the first important work on its subject since Mr. Percy Fitzgerald's two-volume biography of Sterne, published in 1864, and being moreover from the pen of an American, it was only natural that the book should excite curiosity; and it is pleasant to learn that its purchasers do not

appear to complain that they have failed to receive their money's worth. In this connection, and as an additional evidence that Americans look upon the great English writers and their literary productions not by any means as alien to themselves, we are glad to receive word that the custodian of the cemetery where Sterne was buried affirms that most of the visitors to his grave are from the United States.

A NEW DEFINITION OF CULTURE, to be added to the dozen or more that almost everybody can recall or invent, comes from President Hadley. His definition, or rather his latest definition, makes culture "the opposite of absorption in the obvious," the lowest plane of the obvious being reached in pleasures arising from the gratification of the animal nature. "The obvious," he explains, "is that which gets in our way — the thing we cannot help seeing in its full size. The cultivated man or woman is the one who in the various fields of life . . . values in proper proportion the things which are unseen, or at best very imperfectly seen, by the less trained vision." These words of wisdom are timely and reassuring. Business is looking up, prosperity is reviving, the autumn will see "bumper" crops of various cereals, and without this reminder from President Hadley we might for a moment have forgotten the temporality of the seen and the eternity of the unseen.

THE LIFE OF LIBRARY BOOKS may seem short to one observing how quickly they become shabby, how soon they have to be rebound, and how inevitably the most popular among them require replacing at brief intervals. But it must be remembered to what wear and tear a reading community subjects its library books. The latest report of the Galesburg (Ill.) Public Library states the size of its collection as 36,930 volumes, and its circulation as 152,277 for the year, besides a reference-room record of 43,127 books consulted. These bare statistics are rich in significance to one familiar with library business. Nevertheless, pressure should be brought to bear on publishers and printers and book-binders to give more attention to the physical durability of their product.

THE TWO-MILL TAX FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES is not exactly a princely allowance for that highly important branch of our educational system. In the current report of the Nebraska Public Library Commission, President Haller, of the Omaha Public Library, pleads for a higher maximum levy, especially for small towns. Three years ago, as he points out, Iowa passed a law permitting cities and towns with a population of six thousand or less to levy a tax of three mills on the dollar for public library support. Kansas also has taken a similar step. It is encouraging to note the interest of Nebraska's foreign population in public libraries. The Bohemians have clubbed together and bought seven hundred volumes in their language, and have presented the collection to the State, to be used in the form of travelling libraries.

The New Books.

HOBHOUSE, FRIEND OF BYRON.*

In 1865 Lord Broughton, then nearly eighty years old, caused to be printed for private circulation his "Recollections of a Long Life" in five volumes; and on his death, four years later, he left in the custody of the British Museum a mass of papers, including a diary, his correspondence, and further memoirs, all to remain under his seal until the end of the century. Now at length, nine years after the seal of secrecy has been removed, his only surviving child (his second daughter, Charlotte, Lady Dorchester) publishes a two-volume compilation from the "Recollections," pieced out with extracts from the diary and other papers, giving the work the same title as that chosen by her father for his privately-printed reminiscences.

The present work is confined wholly to the earlier period of Lord Broughton's life—the period of his intimate friendship with Byron, the records of which furnish the most important portions of the material. As John Cam Hobhouse (the name by which he was called until his father's death in 1831), he is well known to all who are familiar with Byron literature, especially from his profuse annotations of "Childe Harold." He was Byron's fellow-collegian and fellow-traveller, the confidant of the poet in his unhappy matrimonial venture, and executor of his last will and testament. His acquaintance was, in fact, extensive among all the celebrities of his time—literary, social, political, diplomatic, military. A single paragraph in his diary, describing a ball at the English Embassy in Paris, contains the following names: Lord Wellington, Marshal Blücher, the Czar of Russia, Prince Metternich, Platow, Schwarzenberg, Barclay de Tolly, Prince Stadion, the Prussian royal family (except the King), the Bavarian royal princes, De Wrede, Lord Castlereagh, Marshal Ney, and others of less note. The great Napoleon was at least once closely viewed by him, the occasion being a military review, shortly before the battle of Waterloo. Napoleon is thus portrayed by his young English admirer:

"I had for some time a most complete opportunity of contemplating this extraordinary being. His face is the very counterpart of Sir James Craufurd the runa-

way, and when he speaks he has the same retraction of his lips as that worthy baronet. His face is of a deadly pale, his jaws overhanging, but not so much as I had heard. His hair is short, of a dark, dusky brown. The lady in the Tuileries told me the soldiers called him *notre petit tondu*. He generally stood with his hands knit behind him or folded before him. Three or four times he took snuff out of a plain brown box; once looked at his watch, which, by the way, had a gold face, and, I think, a brown hair chain, like an English one. His teeth seemed regular, but not clean. He very seldom spoke, but when he did, smiled in some sort agreeably. He looked about him, not knitting but joining his eyebrows. He caught my eye, and soon withdrew his gaze, naturally enough the first, I having only him to look at, he having some thirty thousand. As the front of each regiment passed he put up the first finger of his left hand quickly to his hat to salute, but did not move his head or hat. He had an air of sedate impatience. . . . I did not see Napoleon equally well at all times, but stood, during the whole review, close to him, gazing at him through hats and a musket or two on tip-toe. I positively found my eyes moistened at the sight of the world's wonder—the same admiration of great actions which has often made me cry at a trait of Greek or Roman virtue caused this weakness."

He continues to describe the "gratification and melancholy delight" with which he viewed "the man who has played the most extraordinary, gigantic part of any human being in ancient and modern times."

Among the many interesting characters that figure in these pages are Lord and Lady Melbourne, the parents of Queen Victoria's minister, with their vivacious and refractory daughter-in-law, Lady Caroline Lamb, the alleged original of five heroines of fiction before Mrs. Humphry Ward revived her fame in the character of Lady Kitty Ashe. The tender relations supposed to have existed at one time between Lady Caroline and Byron are of course known to all the world, but the poet's friend appears not to make this delicate affair a subject for comment in his diary and reminiscences, so far as they are now published. One brief entry, however, records that "Lady Caroline Lamb is come to town and is in mischievous activity," and another page has the characteristic utterance from that lively lady that truth is "what one thinks at the moment." From a passage dated March 21, 1814, it appears that Hobhouse was in some way partly responsible for the vexations and sorrows that Lady Caroline Lamb brought upon her husband.

"This evening I went to a very small early party at Lady Lansdowne's, where there were not above 150 people present. I saw and spoke to a good many people I knew, but felt miserable, in spite of what used to revive me—kind words from Adair, etc. Lord Byron, whom I love more and more every day, not so much from his fame as his fondness—I think not equivocal, for me—introduced me, at her desire, to Lady Melbourne. Whether from habit or not I know not, but

*RECOLLECTIONS OF A LONG LIFE. By Lord Broughton (John Cam Hobhouse). With additional extracts from his private diaries. Edited by his daughter, Lady Dorchester. In two volumes. Vol. I., 1786-1816. Vol. II., 1816-1822. With portraits. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

she trembled when she spoke to me. She certainly, as she says of me, does owe me an ill turn for preventing her son from losing a bad wife. I told her a fib to please her about her son being popular in Vienna. Byron took me home in his carriage, and I sat with him an hour."

A contemporaneous judgment of Byron's poetry, together with a glimpse of the poet's own opinion of his work, is afforded in this passage:

"The great success of 'Childe Harold' is due chiefly to Byron's having dared to give utterance to certain feelings which every one must have encouraged in the melancholy and therefore morbid hours of his existence, and also by the intimate knowledge which he has shown of the turns taken by the passions of women. He says himself that his poems are of that sort, which will, like everything of the kind in these days, pass away, and give place to the ancient reading, but that he esteems himself fortunate in getting all that can now be got by such a passing reputation, for which there are so many competitors."

There is an unmistakably human quality in a passing reference to the Edinburgh Review's praise of Byron as a first poet of the day. "Rogers called and said to him, 'How will Scott like this? and how will Campbell like this?'—all the time thinking of himself. Campbell and Scott mutually hate and abuse each other."

Mr. Hobhouse was, it seems, an eye-witness of Byron's famous exploit of swimming the Hellespont, of which the poet says in "Don Juan":

"As once (a feat on which ourselves we prided)
Leander, Mr. Ekenhead, and I did."

Here is Mr. Hobhouse's account of the incident:

"We left [Smyrna] in the *Salsette* frigate, Captain Bathurst, and went by Mitylene [*sic*] to the Dardanelles. Byron and Mr. Ekenhead swam across the Hellespont to-day. Ekenhead performed this feat in an hour and five minutes, and Byron in an hour and ten minutes. They set off two miles above Europe Castle, and came out at least a mile below the Dardanelles."

The chief interest of course attaches to the personal reminiscences of Byron, which are so plentiful in these volumes. The accounts of Byron's marriage and subsequent matrimonial difficulties will be turned to by many readers. Hobhouse was present at the marriage ceremony, of which he gives many piquant details. When he wished the bride many years of happiness, she replied, "If I am not happy it will be my own fault." Hobhouse, himself still a bachelor, felt as if he had "buried a friend." In the closing chapter—a long one—he gives an extended account of "The Byron Separation." Into the details of this much-discussed affair we cannot enter. To those who care for the kind of matter furnished in abundance by this authoritative and doubtless important chapter, it will prove most interesting, as will also the

appended letters having chiefly to do with Lord Byron's affairs.

Of somewhat lesser interest are the introductory notes furnished by the English publisher (Mr. John Murray, whose ancestor, of the same name and calling, is said to have made a living, and something more, out of Byron's works) and Lord Rosebery. These prefaces are short, it is true, and tell us little of importance; but they gracefully prepare the way for the leading characters of the book. The portraits, though few, are a welcome addition to the text; and the printing and general style of the volumes are all that the most exacting could desire. Unavoidably, there are here, as in all published diaries and reminiscences and letters, many paragraphs and even pages that record matters of small importance; but they are doubtless more necessary for the total correct impression than the reader at first realizes. However, if Lady Dorchester should feel encouraged to continue her editorial task and make public further records of her father's long life, the events of his later years might, one would judge, be advantageously compressed into far less bulk than they occupy in the writer's chronicle. Considerable omissions, it is evident, have been made in compiling these first two volumes. A sequel of some sort, long or short, is what they now seem to demand. PERCY F. BICKNELL.

A NATURALIST IN SOUTHERN MEXICO.*

Travel books about Mexico are almost too numerous. The man who makes a three weeks' trip into the country on a Pullman car often feels impelled to write a book. He knew nothing of Mexico when he started, nothing when he returned; but somehow or other his impressions and criticisms and advice get into print. Of such books there are more than plenty. But now and then it happens that a traveller really visits some little-known region of Mexico, for some specific and interesting purpose; and from him a book is welcome. Hans Gadow's "Through Southern Mexico" is such a book. He has travelled widely through the less-known parts of our neighboring republic, and has conducted investigations of so serious and interesting a character that his narrative abounds in new and curious matter.

Few fields are more interesting to the natur-

*THROUGH SOUTHERN MEXICO. Being an Account of the Travels of a Naturalist. By Hans Gadow. Illustrated. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

alist. The keen investigator is sure to discover valuable unknown material. A single American collector, Pringle, has made known a fourth of the recognized flora of Mexico; Nelson has perhaps doubled the list of known mammals; out of two hundred and twenty-seven species described in Meek's "Fresh-water Fishes of Mexico," more than fifty were discovered or named by the author; Wheeler and Tower find the entomological field almost untouched. No wonder that students are turning to Mexico, and that such interesting narratives are appearing as Baker's "Naturalist in Mexico" and Beebe's "Two Bird Lovers in Mexico." But neither Baker nor Beebe went far off of beaten tracks; Gadow did. His specialty was reptiles and batrachians; his greatest interest was in the species distribution of animals and plants with reference to their environmental conditions; his field was the tropical forest and mountain country of the States of Vera Cruz, Oaxaca, and Guerrero. His neighbors, when he was at work, were such Indian tribes as the Mixtecs and Zapotecs, and the much less known Mazatecs and Juaves. He camped for days on the great mountain Citlaltepétl (Orizaba), the highest in Mexico, whose towering snow-cap, popularly known as "El Pico," is the finest landmark in the Republic, and his observations there on altitudinal distribution are exceptional in interest and value. While the work is a narrative of personal travel and experience, the author discusses many curious topics, such as the features of the tropical forest, coral snakes and warning colors, rattlesnakes and the evolution of the rattle, four-eyed fish, etc.

The author gives a necessary caution in his preface. "Care has been taken to mention the various creatures at the time and place that we observed them. The country swarms with life, and yet days may pass without a glimpse of anything worth relating, and the best finds are made unexpectedly." A striking illustration of this fact is given. The author had stopped at Presidio station, in the State of Vera Cruz, and was out searching.

"Whilst rambling along the edge of the forest we became conscious of a noise, at first resembling the mutter of a distant sawmill; but on our reaching the other side of a cluster of trees, this sound grew into a roar, like that of steam escaping from many engines, mingled with the sharp and piercing scream of saws. It came from a meadow containing a shallow pool of rainwater. In the wet grass, on its stalks, and on the ground, hopped about hundreds of large green tree-frogs; nearer the pond they were to be seen in thousands, and in the water itself were tens of thousands. . . . The din was so great that it was with difficulty that we caught the remarks

that we shouted, although we were standing only a few feet apart. . . . Now the grassy pool, where the frogs were closest, was about thirty yards square (900 square yards) . . . and each square yard held from fifty to one hundred frogs — many square yards certainly held several hundred each. At the lowest computation this gives 45,000 frogs; . . . supposing there were only 20,000 females, each spawning . . . only 5000 eggs . . . the total would amount to one hundred million eggs. The spawn literally covered the ground and water thickly. But the greatest surprise awaited us on the following morning, when we went to photograph the scene. There was not a single frog left; the water had all evaporated, and the whole place was glazed over with dried-up spawn."

Though this was one of the commonest of the tropical Mexican frogs, Gadow saw in all the rest of his month's field-work only eight or ten specimens!

While his original observations are of the highest interest, and an actual contribution to knowledge, Dr. Gadow makes rather frequent slips in Spanish, and in statements of commonplace things and conditions. Thus, he uses the word *plantanos* for *platanos*, which is the general name for bananas and plantains; he repeatedly uses the word *bejuco* (a vine or *liana*) for *bejuco*; and he gives *chicle* for *chicle*. He should surely not mention a "cathedral" at Orizaba. And he falls into an ordinary tourists' blunder in speaking of "pigskin" bottles for *pulque*. These are relatively small matters. Dr. Gadow's book is a valuable contribution to Mexicanana, because he went where few have gone, and did what none have done.

FREDERICK STARR.

THE STUDY OF MODERN ENGLISH.*

Unlike a large majority of recent books on the English language, the work on Modern English by Dr. Krapp of Columbia can abundantly justify its existence. It has a point to make worth making, and it makes it well. While the very reverse of provincial, it is a book that could hardly have been written anywhere but in America, its note throughout being frankly and refreshingly democratic. Its conclusions, therefore, are not likely to find full favor with the creators of artificial "authority," or with academic conservatives in general. But to all who believe in the sometimes forgotten thesis that language is made for man, and especially to teachers of English whose tendency to grow dogmatic is increased unconsciously by the

*MODERN ENGLISH. Its Growth and Present Use. By George Philip Krapp, Ph.D. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

dogmatism of their text-books, the saneness and calm cogency of such a chapter as that on "English Sounds" should be both helpful and welcome. The book is attractively printed, and, for a first edition, is commendably free from textual errors; "ealde" for ealdan (p. 95, l. 2) and "starbord" for starboard (p. 190, l. 2) are rare instances.

Coming to statements of fact, one is inclined at times to question, at others to take positive issue. It is true (p. 147) that "too" is the stressed form of which "to" is the frequently unstressed; but why say that "of" is the unstressed form of which "off" is the stressed? The facts of stress are of course as stated, but why couple in this fashion words that phonetically have not an element in common? Again (p. 199), in the illustrations of verbs usually intransitive becoming transitive, "to walk a horse" is well chosen. In "to walk the streets," "to jump a fence," however, "the streets" and "a fence" seem essentially (logically, as Doctor Krapp would put it) to be adverbs; nor in "I walk the deck my Captain lies" is there anything of a transitive nature in the verbs. Finally (p. 254), "habit" (meaning dress) is listed among the French words brought into contemporary English. What about "Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy"?

A more serious indictment must be brought against the style of the book. There is no reason why scientific prose should fail in euphony or be wasteful of a reader's powers, and such faults are especially to be condemned when language is the theme; let us give to our German philologists a monopoly of the lumbering and the harsh. Speaking generally, our author is sounder in his grammatical principles than in his rhetorical practice; we doubt, though, whether he would give deliberate approval to these sad examples of the cacophonous: (p. 171) "The contemporary imperfectly educated person"; (p. 220) "two historically clearly distinguishable strands"; (p. 293) "are generally unmistakably determined"; (p. 123) "only approximately correctly." Again, to use a technical terminology, the style is faulty in its collocation of correlatives: (p. 32) "Since instruction in English was no longer given in the schools, but only in French"; (p. 35) "In Chaucer we have one who was not only a consummate artist in the use of language, but one also who . . . could sound . . ." Should it be argued that these faults are venial, if indeed they are faults at all, and that the English-speaking public grows less and less insistent on

the niceties of arrangement and of sound, it may be answered that some of the rules of rhetoric (all the valid ones, says Spencer) are grounded in the conserving of energy, and that the principles of such conservation do not derive their authority from the judgment of majorities. Some of those principles, let us make bold to say, strike their roots deep down into ethics. Even if the faults thus far referred to are rhetorical peccadilloes, the following sentence (p. 138) is nothing short of a rhetorical crime: "The pronunciation, however, still persists as a survival in the speech of old-fashioned people, and, since they are always slower in arriving at imitative innovations than the educated, it persists also in the speech of the 'ignorant' and 'uneducated.'" One reaches the end of the sentence before discovering fully that his inevitable reference of "they" to "old-fashioned people" has thrown him from the track of the thought. It is neither good sense nor good morals for an author thus needlessly to exhaust his reader's time and patience.

But these are surface failings. The book itself is an exceptionally good one, and will doubtless be read widely and with profit.

C. B. WRIGHT.

MEMOIRS OF A ROYALIST EXILE.*

Memoirs are oftenest read because of the importance of the rôle played by their writer, and occasionally for the evidence they furnish toward the settlement of some interesting historical question. Neither of these uses render noteworthy the "Recollections of the Baron de Frénilly." He was not a distinguished man, although he attained a certain prominence during the Restoration among those who were "more royalist than the king." He wrote his memoirs so late in life, and when separated so completely from the means of verifying what recurred to his mind, that his testimony cannot be accepted upon any matter requiring exactness of statement. And yet these "Recollections," once begun, will probably be read to the last page, and if read will not soon be forgotten nor regarded as without historical interest. The reason is that Frénilly had an artist's sense for the value of every stroke in the portraits that fill his pages; his memory notes with the vividness of a fresh impression the characteristics of the changing phases of

* RECOLLECTIONS OF THE BARON DE FRÉNILLY. Edited by Arthur Chuquet. Translated by Frederick Lees. Illustrated. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

society from the Old Régime to the Restoration; and his wit is quick and keen, and as free from artificiality as a bubbling spring. His peculiar quality is a frankness, full of surprises, astounding in its comprehensiveness, only to be explained if we believe him when he says, "My story is a secret, a disclosure made only to myself," written to divert weary hours of a long exile from France after the overthrow of Charles X.

Frénilly was not of the old nobility, but belonged to one of the families of the *haute finance*. His uncle, of whom he was heir, was administrator-general of the royal domain, and his father had been receiver-general of the appanages of the Count of Artois in Poitou and Angoumois. These financial families had an identity of interest with the nobility, and no noble detested the Revolution more heartily than did the young Frénilly. But he was unwilling to emigrate. He looked back upon the emigration as "a painful sacrifice followed by a loyal dupery," and declared that "it alone, and not decrees, destroyed the nobility." During the Terror he lived on one of his Touraine estates, although occasionally he came to Paris. He was on the Rue St. Honoré when the cart passed which bore Danton to the scaffold. In that cart was also Hérault de Séchelles, ex-member of the Committee of Public Safety, who, when an officer of the old Parlement of Paris, had received Frénilly as an advocate, and whom his mother had once regarded as a desirable husband for his sister. Although at one time during the Directory he was on the point of entering the service of the government, he took no part in politics until the Restoration, when he became a pamphleteer for the Ultras. Toward the close of Villèle's administration, realizing that in current estimation a "peerage was equivalent to a dowry of a million, and my son would soon be twenty-four years of age," he asked that his name be included in the rumored creation, but was chagrined to find there were so many on the list. With a few exceptions they were "the flower of France. . . . But this did not excuse them from the crime of being seventy-six."

Frénilly had a sense of humor as well as a keen wit. A play of his was accepted at the Vaudeville, but "before half the first scene had been played I said to myself, 'Oh! but this is execrable!' The public was of the same opinion, and, whilst my friends kept applauding, hissed with all its strength. I ended by heartily hissing myself; for the further the play progressed the more convinced I was that the people were

right." Afterwards he went to a dinner where wreaths of triumph were awaiting him, and told his adventure with such relish that everybody joined him in the laughter.

His description of the beginning of the overtures which led to his marriage is an example of his manner of telling his story. His notary said to him in 1800: "'Sir, you must think of marrying. I have a match to propose to you — a widow.' I made a grimace. 'Young,' he added. I smiled. 'And who possesses a very fine estate near Paris.' I listened." The "Recollections" are also full of amusing anecdotes. One relates that an officer after a battle was supervising the burial of the dead, and thinking he saw some of the bodies move, informed the grave-diggers. "Let them be, sir," replied one of the men; "if we listened to them, not one of them would be dead."

Frénilly's portraits are entirely without malice, although this would be a poor solace to some of the passing subjects of his pencil — for example, to that farmer-general, M. Delahante, who was "at bottom an excellent person," although he was "a tall, bony, square-shouldered man, with a dry, hard, vulgar face, and who smelt of money a mile off." He speaks of the Academician Bailly with appreciative warmth, adding, however, these sentences, *à propos* of his election as mayor of Paris:

"His modesty capitulated, he thought himself a great man, and he became ridiculous. Heaven had granted him a wife who was exactly proportioned to his *entresol* in the Louvre: a good housekeeper and nurse who adored him, a talkative, common, ignorant, stupid woman. . . . Behold her through a stroke of the wand, seated in an immense gilded *salon* thronged with citizens and courtiers, and you may imagine what a powerful auxiliary she was to the sarcasms which were already showering upon her poor husband."

His contempt for Talleyrand breaks out in the description of the festival of the Federation, July 14, 1790, when "this little bishop, a dissolute and lame atheist and gambler, was the only person that could be found to say that famous high mass in the open air, and which the heavens seemed to take pleasure in drowning every five minutes by torrents of rain." Frénilly's mother thought Lafayette a hero, but he called him a *Gilles César*, in which, by the way, he agreed with Talleyrand's estimate.

The chief historical interest of the memoirs belongs to the descriptions of social life before the Revolution, the coming of which Frénilly thought was foreshadowed by an abandonment of the good old customs. His account of the training of a boy for social duties is especially

clear, and includes an amusing interview with Voltaire. The reorganization of society during the Directory is also illustrated with curious details. It should be remarked that the translator has been able to an unusual degree to preserve the liveliness of the original. M. Chuquet has added valuable biographical notes upon the many personages mentioned by Frénilly.

HENRY E. BOURNE.

RECENT FICTION.*

A boy of New England extraction, whose father was one of the army of settlers who journeyed to Kansas that its soil might be dedicated to freedom, comes to our acquaintance in the opening pages of "A Certain Rich Man," by Mr. William Allen White, and remains the central figure of a narrative that covers more than half a century of his career. The father did not get beyond the Mississippi, for his life was the price of an abolitionist sermon he preached one day, but the mother and the child found their way, first to Lawrence, then to Sycamore Ridge. The boy grows up in the midst of the struggle for the salvation of the territory, and is eleven years old at the outbreak of the war. When the first volunteers march away from Sycamore Ridge, he contrives to go with them as a stowaway, and is not discovered and sent back until he has become mixed up in a skirmish, and received a

* **A CERTAIN RICH MAN.** By William Allen White. New York: The Macmillan Co.

THE WOMAN IN QUESTION. By John Reed Scott. Philadelphia: The J. B. Lippincott Co.

IN THE WAKE OF THE GREEN BANNER. By Eugene Paul Metour. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

THE PLOTTING OF FRANCES WARR. By James Locke. New York: Moffat, Yard & Co.

THE WHITE SISTER. By F. Marion Crawford. New York: The Macmillan Co.

ANTONIO. By Ernest Oldmeadow. New York: The Century Co.

MAD BARBARA. By Warwick Deeping. New York: Harper & Brothers.

THE COMPACT. The Story of an Unrecorded Conspiracy in South Africa. By Ridgwell Cullum. New York: George H. Doran Co.

BUT STILL A MAN. By Margaret L. Knapp. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.

THE BRIDGE BUILDERS. By Anna Chapin Ray. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.

THE GLORY OF THE CONQUERED. The Story of a Great Love. By Susan Glaspell. New York: The Frederick A. Stokes Co.

POPPA OF THE POST-OFFICE. By Mabel Osgood Wright. New York: The Macmillan Co.

HOMESFURN. A Story of Some New England Folk. By Lottie Blair Parker. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

THE WHIPS OF TIME. By Arabella Kensaly. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.

LOVE'S PRIVILEGE. By Stella M. Doring. Philadelphia: The J. B. Lippincott Co.

THE INFAMOUS JOHN FRIEND. By Mrs. R. S. Garnett. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

wound in the heel that makes him limp for the rest of his life. The story up to this point is very engaging, and the boy's character as well; for Mr. White understands boy psychology, and John Barclay is an authentic example of his kind. He holds our sympathies while he struggles for an education, and while his first heart flutterings seem to promise a sentimental development of the plot. But the author is not for sentiment, except as an accessory, and we gradually become aware that John's chief aim in life is to be money-getting. As a boy, he makes us uncomfortable by his sharp practice, and the older he grows the more the soul shrivels up within him. The bulk of Mr. White's novel is devoted to describing the process by which John Barclay becomes one of the wealthiest men in America. His success is brought about by shrewd farsightedness, absolute unscrupulousness, and the wholesale corruption of courts and legislatures. He is, in short, the typical bogey-man of the muck-raking magazine. This part of the story is so overloaded with detail as to be unsufferably tedious. Fortunately, the book also makes us acquainted with many other people, more humanly interesting; for it offers an epitome of the life of Sycamore Ridge, as the town grows from its very beginnings into a sizable city. The many characters are thrown together in the novel much as they are thrown together in life, and there is little evidence of artistic plan or grouping. The writer's knowledge, powers of observation, and pointed style impart a considerable degree of interest to his story, despite its amorphous structure. He affects, with imperfect success, the confidential manner of Thackeray, and indulges in homily or reminiscence as his vagrant fancy bids. The proper moral of such a story is that the millionaire hero should find his wealth dust and ashes, and this moral Mr. White properly points. But he makes rather a mess of the rich man's change of heart; there is much pathos and little verisimilitude in the account of his regeneration.

Mr. John Reed Scott, forsaking the imaginary kingdoms and fair princesses with which his invention has hitherto entertained us, now gives us a story of our own time and country, entitled "The Woman in Question." The woman is a beautiful creature who lives a secluded life in rural Virginia, where she is discovered by the hero when he deserts city for country in order to take possession of the ancestral estate which he has recently inherited. She is a woman with a past (which provides the element of mystery), and her past confronts her when the hero brings a house party to his new home, for one of his guests turns out to be the man whom the heroine had married when a mere girl, and from whom she had afterwards fled in disgust. She pretends, when she meets him, that he is a total stranger to her; and her self-possession is such that he is puzzled, for it is ten years since they parted, and both nature and art have changed her appearance. By means of a stratagem, however, he makes sure of her identity, and then, being a thorough-going

villain of melodrama, he seeks to use his knowledge for purposes of blackmail. Already an embezzler, his plight is desperate, and the only way out of it is for him to get killed, which he does to the satisfaction of all concerned. Thereupon the hero claims possession, and his plea does not go unheeded. It makes an ingenious and interesting narrative, light-hearted (except for the underlying tragedy), and gracefully related.

A new writer and almost a new subject claim our attention in Mr. Eugene Paul Metour's tale of romantic adventure in North Africa, entitled "In the Wake of the Green Banner." It is a story of our own days, of the French occupation of Morocco, and of factional Moorish strife. Vivid in coloring and brilliant in description, it is the work of a writer who has first-hand knowledge of his subject—knows it, in fact, almost too well for the reader's comfort, who would like to have the political situation more fully explained, and who is in danger of much bewilderment at the strange local vocabulary. The opening chapters, describing Marakesh and its capture by a fanatical Moslem horde, with the consequent massacre or expulsion of the French, are much the best of the book; if their promise were fulfilled in those that follow, the story would be a strong one indeed. But from the time when the little band of persons in whom we are interested make their escape from the city, and enter upon their toilsome journey through the desert, the story has little plan or coherence. From that point on, it is a chain of loosely-linked episodes, leading to nothing in particular but a good deal of fighting and the final escape of the leading characters. It is weak also in its delineation of these characters. Neither the Corsican hero, the French-American heroine, nor her American artist-cousin is distinctly realized from within; in this respect, the author has been more successful with some of his native types.

"The Plotting of Frances Ware," by Mr. James Locke, has for its hero a Polish patriot who works against the Russian government, and meets the usual fate of such conspirators. We first meet him on a Siberian convict-train, from which he makes a daring escape. Many months later, he turns up in Turkestan, a wild-eyed refugee, and there wins sympathy and protection from an American archaeologist engaged in scientific exploration. Professor Ware's companion in this expedition is his sister, Frances Ware, who is so fascinated by the refugee that she gives him her heart. Presently he negotiates successfully the dangers of the Russian frontier, reaches safety in Paris, and there, after Frances has also returned, persuades her into a marriage. The scene then shifts to Warsaw, whither the couple go in disguise, ostensibly to regain possession of certain property, but really (although the fact is concealed from the wife) to take part in a new and desperate conspiracy. The plot fails, the hero becoming the victim of treachery, and the heroine being saved through the efforts of the British consul. It makes a straightforward and highly interesting story, swift

and logical in movement, and not too harrowing to our feelings, for the hero's weakness and deceitfulness are apparent enough to us (although the heroine sees only the lovable aspect of his character), and we feel sure that he will be succeeded after a proper interval by the above-mentioned British consul.

Mr. Crawford's posthumous story, "The White Sister," belongs to the Roman group of his novels, and a *Saracinesca* is among the lesser figures. It is the story of a young woman, reared in the most conservative and clerical circles, and supposed to be the daughter of Prince Chiaromonte. The sudden death of the latter reveals the fact that Angela is without legal rights, and that, instead of inheriting title and fortune, she is a nameless pauper. She is affianced to an officer who is too much a gentleman to be influenced by this revelation, save to the display of greater tenderness and determination to make her his bride. But his departure upon a military expedition to Africa is soon followed by the report of his death in a skirmish, and there is nothing left for Angela but to take the veil. She has been for some time a nun when it transpires that her lover was not slain, but has been held in captivity for several years. When he makes his escape and returns, a difficult situation is created; for Angela cannot forget her love, yet is irrevocably vowed to the religious life. But it seems that there is a way out of even so desperate a difficulty as this, and a way that approves itself to so good a Catholic as Mr. Crawford. There seems to us a touch of casuistry in the reasoning, but the author speaks by the card, and it is certainly a relief to our feelings to learn that the highest ecclesiastical authority is willing to intervene for the purpose of bringing the lovers together.

Mr. Ernest Oldmeadow's "Antonio" presents a similar case of conflict between religious obligation and earthly love, but with a different issue, and with a degree of psychological power far beyond anything that was ever in Mr. Crawford's reach. This is a story of Portugal, dated from 1835 onward. It is the time of the suppression of the monasteries by a corrupt and unscrupulous government, and the interest centres around a Benedictine abbey overlooking the Atlantic. Antonio has just been made a priest when the news of the spoliation is received, and a band of soldiers comes to the abbey gates to enforce the decree of dispossession. Sadly and solemnly the abbey folk file forth into a world suddenly grown hostile, and seek new retreats in distant lands, Antonio alone remaining in the neighborhood. He has taken a great resolve; he has determined to devote his life to reclaiming the abbey for the service of God and to restoring its ancient glories. The remainder of the book tells how this purpose is fulfilled after many years of toil and trial. Beginning in the humblest way, and keeping his secret close, he gradually acquires land and becomes a vine-grower. Slowly but steadily his enterprise prospers, and, despite many privations and heartbreaking

disappointments, he sees the goal a little nearer with every year. The great trial of his constancy comes when the abbey is bought by an Englishman who brings his household to live there for a time. The new owner has a daughter, and Antonio engages in a desperate spiritual conflict to prevent his love for her from breaking down his resolution. In the event soul triumphs over sense, the work of redemption goes on, the abbey is reclaimed for its sacred purpose, and the woman, chastened by years of grief and renunciation, becomes a Sister of the Visitation. It all stands in striking contrast to Mr. Crawford's story, which is seen to be the veriest brummagem when brought into comparison with the pure gold of this study of the spiritual life. The above is but a brief and barren outline of one of the most masterly and moving books of fiction that are often to be met with. It is a book of the deepest human interest, glowing in color and rich in emotion. Its scene, moreover, lies so far from the beaten track that a distinct element of novelty is thereby added to its other and nobler qualities.

A variant upon the case of Hamlet is offered by Mr. Warwick Deeping's "Mad Barbara." This is a novel of the later years of the Restoration, when Popish plots haunted the minds of Englishmen, and the fussy Mr. Samuel Pepys kept the diary which has been the delight of all succeeding generations. We mention both these subjects because both are woven into the fabric of Mr. Deeping's narrative; the worthy Mr. Pepys figures in several scenes, and the undoing of the villain results from his implication in a Catholic conspiracy. Aside from these historical trappings, the story is simply good melodrama. Barbara's father is slain mysteriously, and the daughter vows vengeance upon his murderer. Her only clue is a fragment of gold and pearl ornament which she finds on the spot where the body of her father is discovered. This she treasures, and bides her time. But when she thinks she has found the man from whose garment the ornament had been torn, he is no other than the returned soldier of fortune to whom she has already given her heart in secret. Nevertheless, she would have taken his life had she not learned just in time that the garment belonged to his father, whose guilty *liaison* with her mother had made him the murderer. After an unsuccessful attempt upon the life of the real offender, she is confined, on the pretext of madness, in a lonely castle, whence she is rescued by her lover under circumstances of great peril. This is evidently the material for an exciting tale, and the author has used it to excellent effect.

A melodramatic tale of conspiracy and freebooting, of plot and counterplot in South Africa, is given us in Mr. Ridgwell Cullum's "The Compact." The scene is Bechuanaland, and the time is set in the years following the British concession at Majuba. The fate of the country hangs in the balance, for the British government has not formally claimed it, and is supine in the protection of its settlers, while German influences are secretly at work to gain con-

trol. This is the historical setting of a drama which has three leading characters: Elwood, the strong silent man who thwarts the conspirators, Chalmer, their agent and ally, and the woman whom both men had loved in England. She had been pledged to Chalmer, who had gone to Africa, and sent no word thereafter. Believing him dead, she had married Elwood without loving him, and come to live with him in Bechuanaland. She is startled when Chalmer appears upon the scene, and renews his suit, but she has come to love her husband at last, and has only scorn for the man who had once had a claim upon her. If Elwood could have known this, there would have been no story to write, still less a compact to give it a title. For this compact, forced upon Chalmer by Elwood, is, in brief, that in a year's time the one of them whom the woman does not love shall put himself out of the way. As the time of fulfilment draws near, the situation grows tense with excitement, and the discovery of their reciprocal love, made by husband and wife at the last moment, is delayed until we stand upon the very brink of a tragedy. Then, by an ingenious device, Chalmer meets his deserved fate without entailing a moral responsibility upon either husband or wife.

The preacher of high ideals, caring little for the dogmatism of the Christian church but filled to overflowing with its spirit, set down in the midst of a sodden community (preferably rural), and slowly leavening the lump of its corruption by his clear-eyed activity,—this is a theme that has engaged the attention of many novelists (mostly women), and often lends itself to effective dramatic treatment. The preacher is usually a young man, and his struggle against the spiritual sluggishness, if not the actual immorality, of the town in which he is settled proves despairingly difficult. The details of his life are criticised by scandal-mongers; he goes in for social betterment, and is told that he had better preach "the simple gospel"; he exposes the fester of hypocrisy, and becomes the victim of abuse and malicious intrigue; he runs afoul of the local magnate and braves his wrath, but finds his position endangered; in the end he conquers all the forces of sullen opposition, and reaps the fruit of his weary labors in the secure affection of a quickened and regenerated community. We have followed this programme through the pages of many novels, and we follow it once more in "But Still a Man," for which Miss Margaret L. Knapp is responsible. The story is unfolded with quiet impressiveness, never resorting to sensational trickery, and having few moments of dramatic tension. But it gains a strong hold upon us by its naturalness, its earnestness, its variety of character and incident, its gleams of poetry and humor, and its clear, unaffected style. The development of the minister's own character is not the least admirable feature of the novel, and his love affairs (when we have once got our bearings) add noticeably to the interest which we take in his activities. The scene is not too definitely fixed: it seems to lie somewhere in the Western Reserve.

The collapse of the great bridge at Quebec provides a striking climax for Miss Anna Chapin Ray's story of "The Bridge Builders." This tragedy of engineering is not used as a mere picturesque adjunct to the story, but is brought into vital relation with the characters concerned, and described with a wealth of technical detail that is rather surprising when we consider the sex of the author. The social setting is in part provided by the tourist hotels of the ancient city, and in part by the inner circle of the aristocratic life of Quebec. The heroine is a refreshing apparition from Arizona, and there are two heroes — one, a young man of letters from the States, the other an older man who is the scion of one of the most distinguished families of the city. Both men are of such fine types that our satisfaction in the success of the one is considerably embittered by our share in the other's disappointment. The characterization of these three persons, and of at least half a dozen lesser figures, is distinctly successful, and the simple plot of the narrative is kept well in hand and firmly guided to its logical outcome. The style is admirable, the product of good taste and a cultivated mind, and the book is written from intimate knowledge of the scenes and social conditions which it portrays. It is the sort of book that may be read with much quiet satisfaction.

Miss Susan Glaspell is a new writer, and one from whom much may be expected, if it is legitimate to base such a judgment upon a first book. The belief that love sanctifies suffering, and may make the blackest of tragedies seem bearable, finds poignant expression in "The Glory of the Conquered." The man is a biologist of world-wide fame, whose researches are directed toward the discovery of an effective treatment for cancer. The woman is an artist with whom promise is well on the way to fulfillment. Both are intense natures, and when they love it is with all the intensity that has hitherto been displayed in their devotion to science and art. A short term of unreasonably happy wedded life is vouchsafed them, and then the tragic fates take a hand. In the course of a laboratory experiment, the man's eyes become infected, and his sight is destroyed. After the first shock of the catastrophe has been outlived, the woman forms a great resolve. She will abandon art, and devote herself to science, not to become herself an investigator, but merely to acquire the technical knowledge and expertness that shall enable her to provide the eyes for her husband's interrupted work and make it possible for him to go on with it. All this she plans and performs in secret, and is just ready to announce her preparedness to take up his work, when he dies from an attack of appendicitis. It will be seen that nothing is spared our feelings in this narrative, and nothing but the richness and tenderness of the author's sympathies makes it tolerable. Even in the outcome, the shattered life of the woman is somehow pieced together, and a hopeful chord is sounded at the close. A sort of moral victory is wrought out of what seems to be utter defeat, and the lesson of the soul's invincibility

is triumphantly enforced. The scene of this moving story is set in and about the University of Chicago, but nothing is attempted of the nature of personal portraiture.

A sweet and wholesome tale of life in New England in the years of the Civil War and after is given us in "Poppea of the Post Office," by Mrs. Mabel Osgood Wright. The heroine is a foundling child, left at the door of the village postmaster one stormy night. Widowed some ten years earlier, and bereft of his own child, he welcomes the stranger infant as a gift of providence, and makes her legally his own. It is a fortunate act, for she grows up into a winsome girl, and becomes the joy of his life. The mystery of her parentage is not disclosed until near the end of the book, when it transpires that she is the legitimate daughter of the local magnate, born after his wife, outraged by his conduct toward her, has left him and gone abroad to die. It is a simple story, and one that has frequently been told, but this present version need not suffer in the comparison with others, for it is appealing in sentiment and unflinching in charm. Nor is it without the diversifications of humor, of a vivid portrayal of provincial customs and modes of speech, and of relationship to the larger life of the nation in the period dominated by impressions and memories of the great struggle for the preservation of the Union. Its love story is no less charming than all the rest, and is exquisitely fitted into the general complication. Mrs. Wright is to be heartily congratulated upon her excursion into the paths of story-telling.

Miss Lottie Blair Parker's "Homespun" is one of those rambling stories that are much more concerned with racy characterization than with the development of a coherent plot. It gives us an intimate picture of the life of a New England town — Columbia Corners — with its individualized types, its gossip and scandal-mongering, its petty local issues, and its quaint vernacular. There is a great deal of homely human nature in the book, and an unflinching fund of humor. The plot, as far as there is one, centres about a protracted lawsuit between two brothers concerning the partition of the farm left them by their father. The younger generation is chiefly represented by two lads, a petted "model" youth who is in reality a thoroughgoing hypocrite and rascal, and a youth of a very different sort who is thrown upon his own resources and "makes good" both with the world and with the young woman who stands by him in spite of all evil report. The story is pleasantly sentimental and entertaining throughout.

Is character determined by heredity or by environment? This is the problem set in "The Whips of Time," by Miss Arabella Kenealy, and illustrated by an ingeniously contrived and striking instance. An unscrupulous physician exchanges the infant children of two of his patients in a London hospital. One of them is the child of a notorious criminal; the other belongs to a highly respectable family. In performing this shocking experiment, the physician is actuated by the desire to refute the claim that a child of

criminal antecedents will develop in accordance with its inherited predispositions. He confides his secret to a fellow-physician, who is duly horrified, but keeps silent about it because the wrong has been irremediably done. This is the prologue of a story which really begins more than twenty years later. The confidant, now retired from practice, takes up his residence in the country, and finds himself in the very place where the criminal's child who has been foisted upon an unsuspecting family should now be living. He determines to identify the child and learn how the experiment has turned out. For a long time his suspicions are fixed upon the wrong person, and he does not discover his mistake until after a long and complicated development of the plot. When the mystery is cleared up, both of the exchanged children are found living in the neighborhood, and the controlling influence of heredity is demonstrated beyond any question. The story is not a pleasant one, but its mechanism is skilfully put together, and it is made the vehicle of a strong human interest.

When a novel is heralded as the "prize mystery story" of a newspaper competition, we do not expect much from it beyond artificiality and excitement. "Love's Privilege," by Miss Stella M. Daring, is such a tale and has the qualities demanded by the conditions of such a competition. It has also an unexpected element of literary excellence, showing that style and mystery are not altogether incompatible in such a production. The scene of the story is an English country estate; its substance is a murder which proves properly baffling until some three hundred pages have been devoted to its complications, when it all becomes absurdly simple. On the whole, the book provides entertainment of a slightly higher quality than the motive for its writing would lead us to anticipate.

Napoleon's attempted invasion of England has always been a tempting theme for the romantic novelist, and Mrs. R. S. Garnett's "The Infamous John Friend" is at least the third book to deal with it during the past year. It is also one of the best of the many treatments that have been given to the subject, exhibiting a close acquaintance with the social and political conditions of the period, and developing a fairly original plot in a thoroughly interesting manner. It offers us the novelty of a hero who is utterly unscrupulous, a spy and a traitor, plotting to deliver his country to the enemy, yet is a devoted husband, a sympathetic figure in many other relations as well, and in some respects a high-minded gentleman. When he receives his deserts in the end our emotion gets the better of our logic, and we cannot become quite reconciled to the ignominious execution of a man of such heroic quality and personal charm. The question may be raised as to the right of a novelist thus to set sentiment at odds with the requirements of justice, but that does not save our feelings from being harrowed in this particular instance. Several historical figures — Napoleon, Pitt, Fox, and Mrs. Fitzherbert — appear in the course of the narrative; and there is much

vivid description of society in London and Brighton, of smugglers' haunts on the coast of Kent, and of the doings of French spies. There is also a charming and spirited heroine, worshipped with all proper humility, and eventually won, by a not very satisfactory hero.

WILLIAM MORTON PAYNE.

BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

From the author of "The Romance of Steel" and "The Romance of the Reaper" there now comes another book of the same industrial-romantic character, entitled "Cyrus Hall McCormick: His Life and Work" (McClurg). Mr. Herbert N. Casson has here not only expanded the McCormick chapter of his earlier work on the Reaper, but he has also diligently collected and very attractively presented much historical and statistical matter concerning the development of agricultural implements and the recent rapid increase in the world's wheat production, an increase made possible largely by McCormick's inventive genius helped on by his imitators and competitors. So important, indeed, is wheat made to appear in the world's history that one is almost persuaded that a nation's consumption of white bread is an accurate gauge of its civilization. The life and personality of the great inventor are adequately set forth, with many interesting details of his services to his chosen city, Chicago, and his benefactions to religious and other enterprises, of which the founding and upbuilding of McCormick Theological Seminary and of "The Interior" newspaper are well-known examples. The author makes an occasional error of fact — as when, in his excellent survey of early nineteenth-century industrial and mechanical achievements, he speaks of Fulton as having "died at forty, plagued and plundered by imitators," whereas the inventor of the steamboat lived to the age of fifty and was commercially not unsuccessful in his main undertakings. Appropriate illustrations are provided for the book, depicting the great inventor, scenes in his life, the Reaper in successive stages of development, and views of harvesting, primitive and scientific, in various parts of the world. The word Reaper always begins with a capital in Mr. Casson's chapters, as it does in this notice; and the reader must admit that the machine itself is an invention of capital importance, and its story one of unusual interest.

Robert Fulton
and his Hudson
river steamboat.

The lives of the world's greatest men are commonly enveloped in a mist of fable and legend. Robert Fulton's achievements have come down to us with a rich accompaniment of hearsay tradition which makes him an extremely interesting character, but a somewhat apocryphal one. It has been left to his great-granddaughter, Miss Alice Crary Sutcliffe, to write the first full and authentic account of this variously gifted man, with the aid of letters and other unpub-

lished material now first collected and scrutinized for biographical purposes. "Robert Fulton and the 'Clermont'" is the book's title (Century Co.), and the story is adequately told in some three hundred small pages of large print, with many illustrations of novel interest and considerable appended matter. While chief prominence is given to Fulton's Hudson River achievements, many less-known particulars of his life and work are detailed; for example, his early steamboat essay on the Seine several years before the Hudson River demonstration, and his numerous other inventions besides the steamboat—a marble-cutting machine, a flax-spinning machine, a double inclined plane for canal use, a contrivance for twisting rope, an earth-scoop, a cable-cutter, the panorama, the submarine torpedo boat, and a number of other less important devices. In reading the earlier portions of this interesting work, one is not surprised to find that Fulton was a high-spirited and forever restless boy, with more of vital energy and uncontrollable impulse than could well find vent. This fine "souvenir of the Hudson-Fulton celebration," as the publishers call it, is timely, and fills a gap in American biography. A part of the material of Miss Sutcliffe's volume has appeared in "The Century Magazine," but it is well worth its production in this expanded and more permanent form.

Inside views of French politics in the Republic.

The resignation of Marshal MacMahon as President of the Republic of France, on January 30, 1879, closed the series of victories of the French republicans over their monarchist adversaries—Legitimist, Orléanist, and Napoleonic. This incident falls about halfway in the period covered by the fourth and final volume of M. Hanotaux's "Contemporary France" (Putnam). The dominant impression left by the narrative comes from the striking contrast between the aims of the political struggle that preceded this event and the character of the movement that followed. The first concerned the very structure of the central government; the second was essentially an effort to formulate and carry into effect a programme of genuine republican reorganization. The questions and the leaders of the first phase now seem to belong to a purely historical past; while those of the second phase seem, and in some cases are, the questions and leaders of to-day, or at least of yesterday. We read of speeches by Brisson, by Freycinet, Ribot, Méline, and Clemenceau; while Broglie, Simon, and Laboulaye are heard rarely or have disappeared from the stage. The Ferry laws brought up the same problem of liberty of instruction which the legislation of 1901 raised again. In explaining the arguments urged during the controversy, M. Hanotaux condemns Simon's appeal to the analogy of the liberty of the press as simple sophistry, because "for the spoken doctrine in class instruction refutation and even discussion is impossible." And he adds that this question of liberty of instruction must be settled on the broader considerations of "prudence, tolerance, and humanity." It is apparent

that he regards Gambetta's phrase, "clericalism is the enemy," as containing more truth than the ordinary electioneering cry. He seems to countenance the idea that if the elections of 1877 had favored the "conspirators" of the 16th of May, the clerical element would have dragged France into a war for the reestablishment of the temporal power of the papacy. As an ex-minister of foreign affairs, the author's treatment of all matters connected with diplomacy necessarily has unusual weight. Not only does this apply to the study of the clerical question, but to the chapters on the Russo-Turkish War and the Congress of Berlin. In preparing these the author has made large use of unpublished autobiographies, particularly the memoirs of Count Schouvaloff and the "Sovenirs" of Carathéodory Pacha. All the way through, the point of view is influenced by the recent *dénouement* of the Balkan affair, the success of Austria backed by Germany in the definitive annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is the reason why he believes that England in 1878, while supposedly opposing the Russian advance on Constantinople, was actually "pulling the chestnuts out of the fire" for the Germans. Bismarck looked on complacently while Salisbury and Beaconsfield did the hard work. The volume closes with the downfall of Gambetta's ministry and his death. Gambetta is evidently its hero; but M. Hanotaux feels his greatness more than he makes the reader feel it. This volume, like its predecessors, shows qualities of style which remind the reader that the author is a member of the Academy, but occasionally the habit of epigrammatic expression merges in a fondness for obscure Delphic utterances.

The principles and practice of modern advertising.

It was hardly supposed, a generation ago, that psychology and advertising had very much in common; but now it is asserted by expert advertisers that much of their success is due to their knowledge of psychologic laws. This, we take it, is another way of stating that they must understand human nature and study the workings of the average human mind; and in that sense it is quite true. This is preëminently the advertising age; and books on the subject are rapidly accumulating. In "The Art and Science of Advertising," by Mr. George French, bearing the imprint of French, Sherman & Co. of Boston, those interested will find an expert treatment of the subject from the pen of one practically familiar with the printing and advertising arts. That Mr. French by no means underrates the importance of his subject is evident from the outset. "We know," he affirms, "that it [*i.e.* advertising] offers the most exalted opportunity, the widest and most fertile field for human endeavor. We know that the advertiser is one of the greatest of popular educators, and one of the chief promoters of human happiness, as well as the greatest of business builders." Later he says: "It is easier to write an article for the Century Magazine than it is to write a fifty-word advertisement as it should be written." One almost expects him to assert, in his

enthusiasm, that it is easier to be a great poet than a successful advertisement-writer; that Lawson is greater than Longfellow. The book's many reproductions of meritorious advertising designs are attractive and striking, but the author's repeated assertions of the vital elements in good advertising become somewhat wearisome. His style, like an effective advertisement, should be concise—although there are advertisers who rely on everlasting repetition to sell their goods. The book represents much practical experience as well as study of its subject, and contains many helpful hints and suggestions for workers in this busy field of modern commercial life.

A gay pageant of English scenes and characters.

Biography, like history, may be written anew for each succeeding age and gain a freshness and reality and meaning not to be found in the earlier records. This is well illustrated by Mr. Frank Frankfort Moore's volume of biographical studies entitled "A Georgian Pageant" (Dutton), and dealing with certain notabilities of the reign of George the Third. No less an authority than the late Professor J. Churton Collins stands sponsor to the book; or, more exactly, its chapters are the outgrowth of certain conversations with and encouraging words from that eminent scholar. It seems to have been largely to rectify sundry Boswellian perversions of truth that the writing of the book was undertaken. Especially zealous is the author in defending his illustrious fellow-countryman, Oliver Goldsmith, against Boswell's charges of absurd vanity and petty jealousy and general inferiority. One is glad to believe with Mr. Moore that Goldsmith's humor was beyond the range of Boswell's comprehension, and that thus it was the Scotchman and not the Irishman who played the fool. But when we are further asked to believe that the so-called bull, a familiar Hibernicism, is in reality wit disguised as stupidity for the mystification of the slow-witted, we become incredulous. The incidents related in these agreeable chapters are set forth with the alluring art of which Mr. Moore, as a novelist, is so accomplished a master. Even where he is not convincing he is suggestive and original. The book is excellent reading and well illustrated.

Recollections of sixty years of the English stage.

Almost a quarter of a century ago the two volumes of pleasing and successful recollections, theatrical and miscellaneous, entitled "On and Off the Stage," came from the pens of Mr. and Mrs. Squire Bancroft (now Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft). Although the work ran through seven editions, it has been allowed to go out of print. Therefore a re-telling of their story, with additions to bring the whole up to date, is welcome. "The Bancrofts: Recollections of Sixty Years" (Dutton) comprises in one substantial octavo volume the cream of the older work, and about the same quantity of equally rich skimming from the years since its publication. As managers of the old Prince of Wales's Theatre in London, and afterward of the Haymarket, as staunch supporters of the

standard English drama, and as the first to dispense with the not too reputable "pit" and to devote the entire programme to a single play, these gifted and enterprising actor-managers, now resting on their laurels, have deserved well of the theatre-going public. Among other memorable matters, the book describes the turbulent dissatisfaction of the groundlings when they found, on the opening of the remodelled Haymarket, that their peculiar domain had been appropriated to the uses of a higher class of patrons. Of famous contemporary actors and actresses, and other persons of note, the writers have many an agreeable or amusing story to tell. For liveliness and variety, the book is one of the best of its kind. It is fully illustrated and indexed, and is well printed.

Ways of life in the middle West fifty years ago.

Mr. Francis Grierson, perhaps better known in the world of music than in the world of letters, has written out some of his boyhood memories of prairie life in Illinois, of his first sight of the Mississippi at Alton, and of his later and longer sojourn in St. Louis—all in the eventful years from 1858 to 1863. "The Valley of Shadows" (Houghton) is the rather puzzling title of the book, which is happily less gloomy and forbidding in its varied contents than in its name. Some of its quaint characters—as the silent Kezia Jordan, the rustic philosopher "Socrates," and Elihu Gest the "load-bearer"—are well drawn and move across the scene with a very human gait. Others are less substantially real, and the veil of imagination and weird romance thrown over them is never lifted. Despite the frequent conversations reported in detail, and other minute particulars, the reader is seldom gripped by a sense of startling reality, but sees all things through the subduing medium of a softly-tinted haze. That is the writer's art, however, and not to be quarrelled with. A chapter on Abraham Lincoln gives merely an account, and not an unmistakably first-hand account, of the closing bout in the great Lincoln-Douglas debate of 1858, when the writer was but ten years old and probably not awake to the significance of the occasion. The book is attractively printed, and its short chapters have an inviting appearance. The fact of Mr. Grierson's foreign birth and rather cosmopolitan course of life gives to these impressions of his a certain peculiar value and interest.

An aid to the understanding of science and our government.

Both the college student of political science and the general reader who desires to understand the actual workings of our government will find much that is useful in Professor Paul S. Reinsh's "Readings on American Federal Government" (Ginn & Co.). It is a large volume of 850 pages, with a brief index and an analytical table of contents. In sixteen chapters about 125 selections are given on such subjects as the Executive, the Treaty-Making Power, the Senate, Conference Committees, the Organization and Rules of the House of Representatives, Financial Legis-

lation, the Departments, Legislative and Administrative Problems, the Army and Navy, the Foreign Service, the Civil Service, the Courts, and Centralization and Changes in the Constitution. As the editor says, "the materials contained in this book are selected almost without exception from the spoken or written work of men actually engaged in the business of government — presidents, legislators, administrative officials and judges." The collection is confined to very recent material, little of it dating further back than 1895. This method of selection makes the book more valuable as a help to the understanding of actual governmental conditions of to-day. Professor Reinsh's volume contains much useful information that can be found in no formal description of the American government, and will prove most useful as an aid to an understanding of its rather complex operations.

The world's most famous fortress.

Fortress, palace, and prison, the Tower of London has gathered about itself more memories, darkly tragic and tragically romantic, than any structure reared by the hand of man. In a lavishly illustrated volume entitled "The Tower of London" (Jacobs), Mr. Charles G. Harper, who already has to his credit more than a score of books of historic and antiquarian interest, tells the story of this monument of kingly power and magnificence and cruelty and weakness. An introduction, giving a brief history of the building as a whole, is followed by chapters that present in detail a full account and description of its several parts, with abundant reference to noted prisoners once lodged within its walls, and to the famous crimes and conspiracies and rebellions that furnished occupants for its cells and dungeons. Some of the horrors of old-time torture and execution are also revealed, while two chapters reproduce many elaborate stone-carvings to show how the weary captives sometimes beguiled the long hours by perpetuating their tragic memory or the memory of those dear to them. Recent removal of certain restrictions has opened the Tower more extensively and freely to visitors than ever before, and this latest guide-book to its many points of historic interest is timely and valuable. The evident care and study that have gone to its making place it on a high level among books of its class.

NOTES.

Three new volumes in "Harper's Library of Living Thought" are the following: "Christianity and Islam," by Dr. C. H. Becker; "The Origin of the New Testament," by Dr. William Wrede; and "Jesus or Paul?" by Dr. Arnold Meyer.

The following new volumes are added to "Crowell's Modern Language Series": "Dornröschen," a playlet by Miss Emma Fisher; "One Thousand Common French Words," selected by Mr. R. de Blanchaud; and "Exercises in French Conversation and Composition," by Mr. Gustav Hein.

A descriptive account, copiously illustrated, of the "Wild Flowers and Trees of Colorado," by Professor Francis Ramaley, is published at Boulder, Colorado, by Mr. A. A. Greenman.

Messrs. P. Blakiston's Son & Co. have published a second revised edition of "A Text-Book of Physics," edited by Mr. A. Wilmer Duff. Each of the seven sections of this thoroughly modern treatise is the work of separate specialists, the editor's contribution being the section upon mechanics and the properties of matter.

The splendid work in the investigation of tropical diseases that has been carried on for several years in the Wellcome Research Laboratories, as a part of the work of the Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum, is freshly called to our notice by the third Report of that institution, now at hand. This handsome quarto of nearly five hundred pages, with hundreds of illustrations, many of them colored plates, is a monument to an enterprise of the highest import to human welfare, of interest not only to physicians, but to biologists, folklorists, and anthropologists as well. The Togo Publishing Co., New York, are the American agents for this and the preceding reports.

The death of a biographer of English royalty comes to our notice in the recent decease of Sir Theodore Martin, who was born in Edinburgh ninety-three years ago. A lawyer by profession, but in his later life more occupied with literature, he produced an elaborate "Life of the Prince Consort" that won him a knighthood and also the warm regard of his Queen, whom he made the subject of a reminiscent volume entitled "Queen Victoria as I Knew Her," issued only last year. His essays in poetry and poetical translation, in literary criticism, and in other departments of letters, as well as his various activities of a different sort, have made him long a familiar figure in London life.

Several new text-books of literature are ready for the school year now opening. "A Primer of American Literature" (Heath), by Miss Abby Willis Howas, is a simple affair, a companion to the author's similar manual of English literature. A much more elaborate work, and one especially notable for the variety and interest of its illustrations, is the "English Literature" (Ginn) of Dr. William J. Long. Dr. Long's definition of a text-book is good: "A storehouse, in which one finds what he wants, and some good things beside." There is an unexpected freshness in his treatment, and his book is effectively planned. Bibliographical notes are appended to the several chapters, and provide many helpful hints.

The appearance in England of a new and definitive edition of the works of Henry Seton Merriman will draw renewed attention to the writings of the brilliant author whose shrouded personality still remains unveiled. The preface to the first volume, just issued by Messrs. Smith, Elder & Co., respects faithfully the deceased novelist's wish to speak to the public only in his books and under his pen-name. Not even the dates of birth and death are given, although it is now no secret that he was born about 1860, and was therefore in his early forties when he died in 1903. His real name too, Hugh Stowell Scott, is known to many. The first four of his published novels, and also the later, "Dross," are not to be included in this edition, being regarded by their author as of inferior quality; but these are obtainable, or accessible, in America. "The Slave of the Lamp" opens the series as republished, and will be followed by a dozen (a baker's dozen, it appears) of the subsequent stories.

ANNOUNCEMENT LIST OF FALL BOOKS.

The classified list given below as the prospective output for the coming Fall and Winter season contains about 1400 titles, representing over forty leading American publishing houses. These announcement lists, carefully prepared from the earliest and most authentic sources especially for our pages, have for many years been a special feature of THE DIAL; and their usefulness and interest, to both the book trade and the book public, have long been recognized. They not only show at a glance what books are coming out in any department of literature, but form a complete summary of the principal publishing activities of the year. All the books entered are *new* books—new editions not being included unless having new form or matter. Some of the more interesting features among these announcements are commented upon in the leading editorial in this number of THE DIAL. Considerations of space make it necessary to carry over to our next issue the categories of "Education" and "Books for the Young."

BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIRS.

The Autobiography of Henry M. Stanley, edited by Lady Stanley, illus., \$6. net.—The Life of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, by Walter Sichel, 2 vols., illus., \$7.50 net.—Diplomatic Memoirs, by John W. Foster, 2 vols., illus., \$6. net.—Recollections of Washington Gladden, \$2. net.—Life, Letters, and Journals of George Ticknor, new illustrated edition, with introduction by Ferris Greenslet, 2 vols., \$5.—The Life of Alice Freeman Palmer, by George H. Palmer, new illustrated edition, \$1.50 net.—The Girlhood of Queen Elizabeth, told in contemporary letters, edited by Frank A. Mumby, illus., \$3 net.—Fifty Years in Constantinople, and Recollections of Robert College, by George Washburn, illus., \$2.50 net.—Oliver Wendell Holmes, the Autocrat and his fellow boarders, by Samuel M. Crothers, 75 cts.—The Life of James Dwight Whitney, by Edwin T. Brewster, illus. (Houghton Mifflin Co.)

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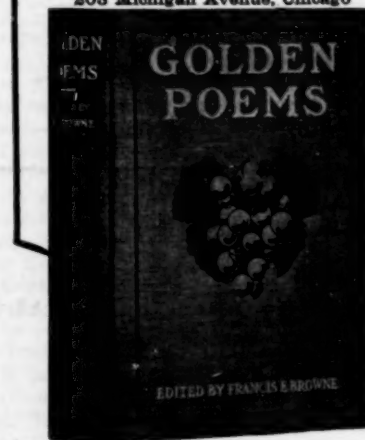
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